

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

In the following Amendments, underlining indicates added text, while brackets indicate deleted text.

On page 1, following the Title, please add the following paragraph:

The present application is a Continuation application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/060,854, filed April 15, 1998.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph at lines 10-11, with the following paragraph:

Fig. 2 illustrates the conserved amino acid residues among subtilisins from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* (SEQ ID NO:2) and *Bacillus lentus* (wild-type) (SEQ ID:NO 3).

On page 8, please replace the paragraph at lines 13-16, with the following paragraph:

Figs. 3A and 3B illustrate an amino acid sequence alignment of subtilisin type proteases from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* (BPN') (SEQ ID NO:2), *Bacillus subtilis* (SEQ ID NO:5), *Bacillus licheniformis* (SEQ ID:NO 4) and *Bacillus lentus* (SEQ ID NO:3). The symbol * denotes the absence of specific amino acid residues as compared to subtilisin BPN'.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph at lines 28-29, with the following paragraph:

[Fig. 7] Figs. 7A, 7B and 7C illustrate[s] the amino acid strings corresponding to peptides derived from the sequence of *Bacillus lentus* protease used in Example 2.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph at lines 31-32, with the following paragraph:

Figs. 8A, [and] 8B, and 8C illustrate the amino acid strings corresponding to peptides derived from the sequence of human subtilisin used in Example 2.